

~~Secret~~**Terrorism Review** [REDACTED]

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7 February 1985

Focus**The Euroterrorist Front: Moving Beyond Rhetoric** [REDACTED]

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For years, various European leftwing terrorist groups have called for the establishment of an international united front against "Western imperialism," and particularly against its most powerful symbols, NATO and the American presence in Europe. Until recently, they appeared to be paying little more than lipservice to this goal. In the past few months, however, there have been growing indications that at least three of these groups—the West German Red Army Faction (RAF), the French group Action Directe (AD), and the Belgian Communist Combatant Cells (CCC)—may have launched a coordinated terrorist offensive against NATO.

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The offensive seems to have begun late last summer with AD attacks in Paris on the Atlantic Institute, the Western European Union, and the European Space Agency—all of them targets that AD communiqués erroneously asserted are associated with NATO. Then in October in Belgium, the CCC bombed several multinational firms because of their connections with NATO military activities.

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In December the pace picked up. In Belgium, the CCC bombed the NATO pipeline system at six points. In West Germany, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] more than 30 imprisoned RAF members staged a hunger strike, while dozens of bombing attacks against targets associated with NATO were carried out in solidarity with them. In Portugal, the Popular Forces of 25 April (FP-25) fired several mortar rounds at NATO-related facilities, while in Spain, Basque Fatherland and Freedom (ETA) bombed a military pipeline. Even in the Netherlands, hitherto largely apart from the terrorist scene, sympathizers halted a train to demonstrate solidarity with the RAF. [REDACTED]

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In 1985 the offensive continued in Belgium with a CCC bombing of a US military facility. In West Germany, there were more RAF bombings, including one in which one of the perpetrators was killed and the other seriously injured, as well as the assassination of industrialist Dr. Ernst Zimmermann. In France, Action Directe assassinated senior Defense Ministry official Gen. Rene Audran, and AD prisoners began a hunger strike in sympathy with the RAF prisoners. In Portugal, FP-25 lobbed some mortar rounds at NATO vessels in Lisbon harbor and bombed automobiles belonging to West German servicemen. In the Netherlands, the Northern Terror Front, a hitherto unknown group, bombed a police station (saying the police were "slaves of imperialism") and a Defense Ministry facility. In Greece, another new group using a name—the National Front—formerly

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associated with rightwing Greek terrorists claimed credit for setting off a bomb in a bar crowded with US servicemen, wounding at least 78 persons. []

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Some—but not all—of the groups responsible for these incidents have indicated, explicitly or implicitly, that their actions have been part of a mutual concerted effort—in effect constituting a multinational campaign. []

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The Targets. The nearly exclusive focus on NATO-related targets is a novel feature of this campaign. Hitherto, Action Directe had tended to concentrate on indigenous French targets, FP-25 on Portuguese targets, ETA on Spanish targets, and so on. Even the RAF in the past directed most of its attacks against indigenous West German targets. []

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The Timing. It seems very unlikely that so many leftwing European terrorist groups would independently decide to mount major anti-NATO campaigns at approximately the same time. Some of the attacks may have been stimulated by the publicity attending one or another of the major terrorist incidents, and some may have been in response to public exhortations by the RAF and Action Directe to join the campaign. But many of these attacks required considerable planning and preparations that almost certainly were set in motion well before the campaign began. []

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The Tactics. In general, the groups have used similar tactics. Most of the terrorist attacks have been bombings, the majority directed against property rather than people. In West Germany, Belgium, and France, however, car bombings have been attempted. Hitherto these had been rare in Western Europe. The AD assassination was accomplished with a handgun; it was a tactic unusual for Action Directe but common for the RAF. The use by FP-25 of a mortar, on the other hand, was unique. []

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The Talk. Several of the groups have made public statements asserting that they were acting in concert with other groups against a mutual enemy. The RAF and Action Directe, for example, issued a joint communique declaring war on the "imperialist" system. The CCC asserted that two of their attacks in Belgium were to demonstrate solidarity with the RAF. The RAF operatives who murdered Doctor Zimmermann dedicated their act to the memory of a Provisional IRA terrorist who had died in a hunger strike. Action Directe dedicated its assassination of General Audran to the memory of an RAF martyr. AD prisoners in France began their own hunger strike in sympathy with that of the RAF prisoners in West Germany. On the other hand, the Northern Terror Front did not tie its actions explicitly to support for the RAF or any Euroterrorist front—although it did threaten to attack facilities associated with NATO. Neither FP-25 nor the ETA indicated their attacks were part of any international campaign; indeed, ETA declared it was targeting the Spanish military. The National Front tied its action to displeasure over US policy with regard to Cyprus. []

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The Ties. []

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The hunger strike of the RAF prisoners appears to have been the signal for the currently intense level of anti-NATO terrorism in Europe. But as of early February the strike was nearly over. The fasting prisoners probably always recognized that their strike would not achieve its objectives of persuading the West German Government to put them all together and treat them like prisoners of war. Most of the prisoners are now accepting food. In contrast to previous fears, probably none of them will starve themselves to death. [REDACTED]

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Conceivably, without the hunger strike as a unifying and stimulating factor, the current terrorist campaign might gradually just peter out. This seems unlikely, however. Indeed, the anti-NATO terrorist campaign seems instead to be broadening and increasing in intensity. [REDACTED]

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Highlights

Alert Item

France

US Embassy and Personnel Under Possible Surveillance by Terrorists

The US Embassy in Paris reports that the assistant naval attache and his family may have been under surveillance by persons appearing to be of Middle Eastern and European origins. On 4 January a European woman gained access to the attache's residence through misrepresentation. Later that day a man of evident Middle Eastern extraction took pictures of the attache's son. On 20 January the attache and his wife were followed by a man, apparently of European origin. On the same day, a US Embassy guard reported that persons with Middle Eastern features photographed the Embassy. In view of the current anti-NATO terrorist offensive, these activities might have been in preparation for an operation by Action Directe, perhaps in conjunction with the Red Army Faction. The involvement of persons of apparent Middle Eastern origin, however, suggests an operation by the virulently anti-American Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction, which has previously attacked Americans in Paris.

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Key Indicators

Greece

"National Front" Promises Repetition of Bar Bombing

On 2 February in Glyfada, a seaside suburb of Athens about 3 kilometers from the US-operated Hellenikon Airbase, a large homemade time bomb exploded in a crowded bar, injuring 78 persons, including 59 Americans, but miraculously killing no one. A swarthy man who spoke broken Greek was believed to have left the bomb in the bar earlier in the evening. In a telephone call to an Athens newspaper, an anonymous spokesman claimed credit for the act in the name of an unknown organization, the "National Front," indicating it was in reprisal for US support of the Turkish occupation of Cyprus. The caller said that more such bombings would occur soon in places which Americans and Greeks frequent.

Spain

New Accord for Basque Area May Isolate ETA

A broad legislative accord reached on 30 January between the Basque regional government (and by implication the Basque Nationalist Party) and the Basque Socialist Party (representing the ruling Spanish Socialist Workers' Party and by implication the central government) enjoys widespread popular support, although its vague provisions may be difficult to implement. The watershed agreement may eventually lead to a lessening of political violence in the Basque region by drying up support for ETA and other radical groups. Over the short run, however, ETA's opposition is likely to lead to more, rather than less, terrorism. Among the points on which agreement was reached were the following:

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- The Basque people accept that self-government for the region can be satisfactorily achieved through the transfer of power to the Basque regional government.
- There is no justification for the use of violence to gain political ends in a Spanish political system based on freedom and individual liberties.
- Basque regional problems should be negotiated exclusively among the political parties represented in the regional parliament and the Spanish state.
- The Basque regional government and the Basque Socialist Party agree to support the "social reinsertion" of those who abandon armed political struggle.
- International relations, specifically with regard to terrorism, are the exclusive responsibility of the Spanish state. [REDACTED]

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Angola**UNITA To Target Foreign Oil Companies**

UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi announced in mid-January that UNITA would begin to attack installations of foreign companies in northern Angola, specifically including Gulf Oil (US), ELF-Aquitane (French), and Petrobras (Brazil). He said the reason was that these companies had failed to protest the growing number of executions of UNITA supporters by firing squad. A more likely reason would be that the operations of these companies are the Angolan Government's chief source of foreign exchange. [REDACTED]

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Japan**Chukaku-ha Announces Intention To Begin Targeting Personnel**

In a recent article in its newspaper, the leftwing terrorist group Chukaku-ha (Nucleus Faction) asserted it has "no choice but to shift its attacks from those against facilities to attacks against facilities with people inside and then to attacks against people." [REDACTED]

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The shift toward trying to harm personnel was signaled by the rocket attack on the US Consulate General in Kobe on 1 January. At least one of the rockets contained shrapnel. According to the article, "the advent of the rocket gun marks a revolution in the weaponry we use to carry on our revolutionary struggle. With it we can rain down a continuous barrage at will against our targets. The rocket gun lends itself to everyday use and must definitely come to be employed that way." [REDACTED]

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Significant Developments**West Germany****Red Army Faction Assassinates Industrialist**

On 1 February two suspected RAF terrorists forced their way into the home of Ernst Zimmermann, board chairman of Munich's Motoren und Turbinen Union (MTU), tied him to a chair, and shot him in the head. He died 12 hours later. Based on descriptions provided by his wife, West German authorities believe the terrorists are RAF hardcore fugitive Werner Lotze and Barbara Meyer, a newcomer to the group. The RAF claimed responsibility for the attack in the home of Commando Patrick O'Hara, a Provisional IRA member who died in a hunger strike in 1981. MTU makes engines for tanks and other military vehicles; thus the attack was part of the RAF's assault on NATO-associated targets. []

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Update on RAF Hunger Strike

As of 4 February, all but five RAF prisoners had withdrawn from their eight-week-long hunger strike. The murder of West German industrialist Ernst Zimmermann may have been the signal to end the strike, for right after he was shot RAF leaders Christian Klar and Brigitte Mohnhaupt began taking food in their Stuttgart prison. Most of the other RAF member imprisoned around the country rather quickly followed suit. []

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France**Action Directe Assassinates Defense Ministry Official**

Gen. Rene Audran, the French Defense Ministry official in charge of international arms sales, was assassinated by an unknown assailant outside his home on 25 January. The attacker emptied a .45 caliber automatic into his body, firing the last two shots into his head as he lay on the pavement. Later, an anonymous telephone caller claimed credit for the "execution" in the name of "Commando Elizabeth Van Dyck of Action Directe." Van Dyck was a Red Army Faction (RAF) terrorist who died in a confrontation with police in Nuernberg in 1978. []

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The slaying was further evidence of the new close association between Action Directe and the RAF—even though some French police suspect the trigger person may have been a member of the RAF rather than Action Directe. A week earlier, to emphasize the establishment of the AD-RAF "anti-imperialist front," five imprisoned members of Action Directe had begun their own hunger strike in solidarity with the incarcerated RAF hunger strikers in West Germany. []

Police Sweep Uncovers ETA-M Base

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In late January French police launched a raid against a base of the Military Wing of Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA/M) in Anglet that led to the arrest of eight ETA/M members, including two leaders of the group. The raid also led to the discovery of a cache of arms (including a grenade-making machine, explosives, 3,000 meters of fuse, five carbines, four pistols, and a Soviet-made rocket-propelled grenade), intelligence information on French installations in Spain, and a list of high-ranking Spanish officials. The sweep, which marks a new tougher French policy toward Basque terrorists, is likely to generate reprisals from ETA. []

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Iparretarrak Complains of French Favoritism

The small French Basque terrorist group Iparretarrak (Men of the North), angered over the court sentences handed down to two of its members on 24 January, has vowed "to pursue the armed struggle" to gain their release. The group claimed responsibility for several recent bombing attacks against French police. The group charged that the French courts are dealing out harsh sentences to Basque militants while ignoring the shadowy Antiterrorist Liberation Group (GAL). [REDACTED]

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Italy**Implementation of Preventive Detention Reform Law Delayed**

On 23 January the Italian Parliament approved a measure which postpones full implementation of the preventive detention reform law passed last summer. The law limits the maximum duration of pretrial detention of criminal suspects as well as posttrial detention of convicted suspects awaiting processing of their appeals. It was to take full effect on 2 February, at which time the state would have had to grant provisional liberty to many current detainees. Widespread concern about the prospective release of up to 1,300 allegedly dangerous terrorist and criminal suspects led Parliament to approve a nine-month delay. The Justice Minister stated that the government intends to use the delay to complete the trials and appeals of the terrorists, gangsters, and drug-trafficking suspects who would otherwise have been eligible for release. Italy's overburdened and inefficient legal system will be hard pressed, however, to process so many priority cases by the end of November, and the authorities are therefore likely to seek an extension of the delay. [REDACTED]

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Portugal**FP-25 Attacks NATO Targets Twice in Week**

On 28 January the leftwing terrorist group Popular Forces of 25 April (FP-25) launched a mortar attack at NATO warships anchored in Lisbon harbor. None of the rounds hit anything but water. Three days later FP-25 bombs destroyed eight cars and damaged other property belonging to West German Air Force personnel at Beja Airbase. One woman was slightly injured. FP-25 issued a communique claiming credit for both attacks, demanding that the airbase be closed, and promising to use "all available means" to force the "unconditional withdrawal of all foreign bases from Portugal." [REDACTED]

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FP-25 attacks on West German military targets are unprecedented, and their occurrence amidst the anti-NATO campaign proceeding in other West European countries suggests a degree of coordination or complicity, but nothing in the FP-25 statement indicates this was intended. In response to the latest wave of FP-25 violence, the Portuguese Government has decided to push new internal security legislation through the parliament early in February. In particular, a new intelligence service will be established to help the government cope with terrorism in Portugal. [REDACTED]

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Spain**Police Mount Annual Operation To Eradicate GRAPO**

In a massive sweep that began on 19 January, Spanish police arrested 17 members of the small urban terrorist group October First Antifascist Resistance Group

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(GRAPO), including four alleged leaders. Police also confiscated a large store of arms, 16 safehouses, and money recently obtained through ransoms paid for kidnaped victims. [REDACTED]

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While Spanish officials are confident that the operations will destroy GRAPO, the group has survived similar blows in the past. [REDACTED]

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Lebanon

Sunni Muslim Leader Blinded by Car Bomb

On 21 January in Sidon, Sunni Muslim community leader Mustafa Sa'ad was blinded by a powerful car bomb that exploded outside his apartment. His daughter later died of her injuries, and his wife lost an eye in the explosion that occurred during a meeting with local Shia leaders; in all 29 persons were injured. Sa'ad has been noted both for his refusal to cooperate with the Israelis and for his efforts to defuse confessional violence in Sidon. His daughter's funeral was punctuated by shouts of "national unity." Most Muslims immediately blamed Israel for the attack, although there is no evidence of Israeli complicity, and any militia might have been responsible. [REDACTED]

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New Wave of Bombings in Beirut

Between 9 and 19 January bombs exploded in Muslim West Beirut almost every day, killing at least 19 persons and injuring at least 145. Among them was a car bomb in the Shia neighborhood of Beir al-Abed that killed two and injured 12 on 18 January; an Amal explosives expert reportedly was trying to dismantle the bomb when it went off. Amal claims it successfully defused two other bombs earlier that day. To give an idea of the variety of the targets, during the evening of 19 January, bombs exploded near a civil defense office, an Iraqi bank, and a mosque; none of these bombs resulted in casualties. [REDACTED]

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Lethal Bomb at Sunni Mosque in Tripoli

On 1 February the Sunni mosque was packed with worshipers, many of them followers of Shaykh Shaban, the hardline leader of the Islamic Unification Movement. Shaban—who has fought with Syrian militias for control of Tripoli and has links with Iran—was elsewhere at the time. The explosion killed 12 persons and injured more than 60. No one claimed responsibility. [REDACTED]

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Peru

More Common Graves Discovered

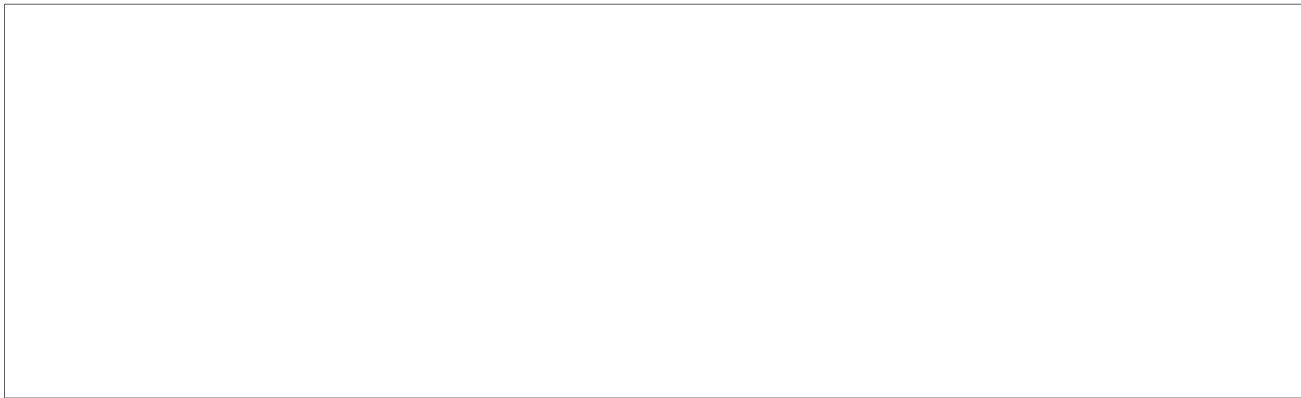
Three common graves containing 44 adult corpses were discovered in the southern Emergency Zone, according to reports in Lima newspapers. Some of the corpses showed signs of torture. Peasants living near one of the sites identified several of the bodies as being those of persons who had disappeared after being detained by the authorities. [REDACTED]

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Some 50 corpses were discovered in a mass grave in the same region last August, and as many as 41 bodies in mass graves were uncovered there last October. Government investigators reportedly have been trying to identify the victims but have released no substantive information. The Maoist Sendero Luminoso guerrillas and the government's counterterrorist forces have each been accused by the other of committing the murders. The circumstances surrounding this most recent find, however, lend weight to the accusation that government forces were responsible.

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Sri Lanka**Tamil Terrorists Blow Up Train**

On 19 January Tamil terrorists set off a bomb on a Colombo-bound train 300 kilometers north of the capital, derailing the train and killing 28 soldiers and 11 civilian passengers. There is evidence that Tamils in the area were aware of the plot, but none of them tipped off military authorities when 90 soldiers boarded the train at its last stop. On 23 January Tamil separatist guerrillas attacked the derailed train and burned 11 cars while work was under way to repair the 500 meters of damaged track.

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